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WASHINGTON TIMES
26 February 1985

Soviets blackmailed diplomat for NATO data, Norway says

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Former Norwegian diplomat Arne Treholt was photographed during an sex orgy at a private party in Moscow and blackmailed into giving secrets about NATO's nuclear weapons to the Soviet Union, a government prosecutor said yesterday.

Chief Prosecutor Lars Qvigstad outlined the state's case against Mr. Treholt at the opening of the most sensational spy trial in Norwegian history.

He accused Mr. Treholt of providing information about NATO nuclear weapons and their possible wartime use, revealing defense arrangements along NATO's northern frontier with the Soviet Union and giving Moscow inside reports on the thoughts of top Western leaders.

Mr. Qvigstad said many aspects of the case were too secret for open court, but he described secret meetings in Vienna, Helsinki, New York and Oslo and messages left in toilets, automobile exhaust pipes and on tables in a U.N. library. He said Mr.

Treholt also provided information to Iraq.

Chief Judge Astri Sverdrup read 15 pages of accusations. Mr. Treholt, 42, once considered a star of Norway's Foreign Ministry, stood calmly in the dock and denied the charges.

"I never revealed anything referring to the security of the country in the points referred to in the indictment," he said. "I cannot therefore plead guilty to the eight points of the indictment."

A panel of seven judges is hearing the case. If found guilty of the charges, Mr. Treholt will face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The indictment charged that Mr. Treholt was carrying 66 secret NATO documents for delivery to Soviet agents in Vienna when he was arrested at Oslo's airport Jan. 20, 1984. In addition, Mr. Qvigstad said, 6,000 pages from 832 secret doc-

uments were found in Mr. Treholt's apartment at the time of his arrest.

Mr. Qvigstad said Soviet KGB agent Gennady Titov appeared to have begun cultivating Mr. Treholt as a contact by giving him gifts of cognac and vodka. In 1975, when Mr. Treholt was serving on a delegation to Moscow, he was invited to a private party that turned into an orgy, the prosecutor said.

Mr. Titov confronted Mr. Treholt with photographs from the party "a short time later" and asked him about his access to secret material, Mr. Qvigstad said.

Mr. Qvigstad gave no details about the photographs.

In the years after that, Mr. Qvigstad charged, Mr. Treholt met Mr. Titov in Oslo restaurants to give the Soviet agent secret material to copy. The documents were always returned four hours later outside a small store in suburban Oslo.

When Mr. Treholt later became counselor to Norway's delegation to the United Nations, he was assigned

to another Soviet contact, Vladimir Zhishin, whom he met in New York restaurants and the U.N. delegates' lounge. Messages were left in restrooms, the lounge and the U.N. Library, Mr. Qvigstad said.

By that time, Mr. Qvigstad said, Norway had asked the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation to watch Mr. Treholt.

Despite the surveillance, when Mr. Treholt returned to Norway he was chosen to attend the National Defense College in 1982-83.

Mr. Qvigstad portrayed Mr. Treholt's admission to Norway's defense establishment as a mistake by Foreign Ministry administrators who did not know Mr. Treholt was suspected of espionage.

Among the information Mr. Treholt is accused of providing were confidential accounts of meetings between Norwegian officials and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott

Trudeau of Canada and former Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington of Britain.

Mr. Treholt opened a Swiss bank account in 1982 with \$32,000 he claimed he made from the sale of a Mercedes car he bought in New York City, Mr. Qvigstad said.

A year later, the account took in an additional \$20,000, which Mr. Qvigstad said Mr. Treholt received from Iraqi intelligence agent Rahdi A. Mohammed.

Mr. Treholt allegedly gave Iraq information about Israeli and Syrian military matters, the positions of Soviet forces near the Middle East and Western views concerning the region.

Mr. Treholt was accused of providing oil industry intelligence obtained at the defense college, although the indictment did not specify to whom he gave it. He also was accused of passing along confidential Western predictions of oil production, American views of internal Iranian and Saudi Arabian politics and prospects for U.S. military intervention in the Middle East.

Mr. Qvigstad said Mr. Treholt received about \$13,000 from Mr. Titov, largely to pay travel expenses.